



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 9/22/2008

**GAIN Report Number:** JO8005

## Jordan

## FAIRS Export Certificate Report

## Annual

## 2008

**Approved by:**

Peter O. Kurz

U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Mohammed Khraishy

---

**Report Highlights:**

There has been no change in past year. Meeting the requirements of food export certificates required by the Jordanian authorities is the most important step to facilitate food trade. This report highlights the different documents required from various U.S. agencies, their purpose, and, the name of the Jordanian authority that requires them.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Amman [JO1]  
[JO]

**Table of Contents**

<b>I. LIST OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY JORDAN OF IMPORT AND THE PRODUCTS THEY COVER. ....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON THE EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S). ....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS. ....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS. ....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS ....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS ....</b>	<b>10</b>

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS (FAIRS)**

### **EXPORT CERTIFICATE FAIRS REPORT**

DISCLAIMER: the Agricultural Trade Office of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Amman, Jordan has prepared this report for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided might be dated, as some import requirements are subject to frequent change. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters ensure that all necessary customs clearance requirements have been verified with local authorities through your foreign importer before the sale conditions are finalized. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY THE COUNTRY OF IMPORT AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Jordan is a small Middle Eastern country with a population of 5,723,000 and limited natural resources. Jordan is a net food importing country that depends on imports for some basic food items such as wheat, barley, corn, dairy products, sugar, red meat, rice, legumes and canned food items.

A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Jordan and the United States entered into force in December 2001. Since that time, Jordan has been eliminating trade barriers between the two countries, a process that will be completed in 2010. This has a direct effect on the creation of new commercial opportunities for U.S. firms seeking to enter the Jordanian market and the Middle East region.

Importers are required to insure for any human health hazards associated with trade in a form of microbial, parasitical and fungal contamination. Import consignments are routinely tested for radiation levels and chemical contaminants, including heavy metals, hormones and residue from medicines. Food additives are determined by testing. Less frequent testing is done for pesticide residues.

Importers of food are required to meet the Ministry of Health's (MoH) technical regulations. Importers of meat, animal feed, and seedlings are required to meet Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) technical regulations. A committee comprising officials from Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology (JISM), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and the customs department carry out inspections of food and agriculture products at the border, Jordan applies internationally recognized standards when these are available.

Monitoring of imported food for compliance with Jordan's technical regulations and other

international standards is done on a risk-based system (See GAIN Report Number: JO8003).

# **I. LIST OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY JORDAN OF IMPORT AND THE PRODUCTS THEY COVER.**

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology (JISM), Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), Customs Department (CA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
<b>Powder Milk</b>	Country of origin certificate (COOC).	US Government Or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (SPS) Veterinary Animal Health Certificate (VAHC).	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Human Health	MOA, JFDA
	Fitness for Human Consumption Certificate. (FHCC)	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JISM, JFDA
	Product Validity for Consumption in the Country of Origin. (PVCCOOC)	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	JISM, JFDA
<b>Flavored Milk</b>	COOC, VAHC, FHCC, PVCCOOC, Approved flavor and/or coloring material.	FDA or USDA-FSIS	Human Health	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
<b>Bovine Meat</b>	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases- food safety	MOA
	<i>Halal</i> certificate (HC)	Supplier/ Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA, JISM

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
	A hormone-free certificate	JFDA or USDA-FSIS	Meat should be from animals that are hormone-free. Food safety.	MOA, JFDA
	Free from BSE high-risk tissues certificate	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Free from BSE high-risk tissues. Food safety	MOA
<b>Processed meat</b>	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases. Food safety.	MOA
	HC	Supplier/ Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA, JISM
	A hormone-free certificate	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Meat should be from animals that are hormone free. Food safety	MOA, JFDA
	Free from BSE high-risk tissues certificate	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Free from BSE high-risk tissues. Food safety	MOA
<b>Poultry meat</b>	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control	MOA, JISM, JFDA, Customs
	HC	Supplier/ Manufacturer	Verification that slaughter conforms to Islamic traditions. Food quality and consumer protection.	MOA, JISM
	Residues monitoring Program certificate	National Residue Control System (FSIS-EPA & FDA)		MOA, JISM, JFDA

Product(s)	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
	Poultry meat from flocks that have not been fed on bovine bone and meat meals certificate.	FDA, USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Food safety.	MOA, JFDA
<b>Pisces (Fish and sea fruits) Frozen and or Processed</b>	Validity certificate	FDA, USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Shelf life. Food quality.	MOA, JISM, JFDA
	Processing procedures		Food quality	MOA, JISM
	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases- food safety.	MOA
<b>Cheese</b>	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	SPS-VAHC	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Free from infectious and contagious diseases. Food safety.	MOA, JFDA
	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)	Accredited by FDA, USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Food quality.	JFDA
<b>Honey</b>	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of Commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	Residues free certificate	FDA, USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Food safety.	MOA, JFDA
<b>Fresh fruits and Vegetables</b>	COOC	US Government Or Chamber of commerce	Custom Valuation, Health, Risk control.	MOA, JISM, JFDA, CA
	Quarantine pests free Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary certificate SPS	USDA-FSIS or APHIS	Plant health.	MOA

## II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES(S).

According to Article 31 of the Customs Law of 1998 and its amendments, every customs declaration must include the following:

1. Maritime or air bill of lading.
2. Commercial invoice indicating value, weight, freight and insurance charges etc. All invoices should be notarized by the Jordanian diplomatic mission in the country of origin. Certification by the local chamber of commerce is sufficient, subject to the approval of the customs department director, in cases where a Jordanian consulate is not available.
3. A notarized certificate of origin issued by the relevant authority in the exporter's local area.
4. Value declaration form for shipments exceeding JD 2,000 (USD 2,820).

The customs department may request other documents related to the shipment as needed. All unprocessed agricultural products are by law under the mandate of Ministry of Agriculture while processed food is under the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA).

All of meat and processed meat products imported into Jordan must be accompanied with Sanitary and phyto sanitary certificate (SPS) from proper authority indicating that the product is Free from infectious and contagious diseases as a preliminary food safety requirement, also the certificate shall state that the animal has not been fed feed that contains bovine bone and meat meals.

Since Jordan classifies the United States as BSE controlled risk, and until this status changes, the GOJ interpretation of OIE recommendation for import from such countries should be considered. The interpretation of the recommendations includes the following:

- 1) Meat should be free of Glands and Bones.
- 2) Meat should be from animals that are hormone free; a hormone free certificate is required.
- 3) Meat should be from animals that received *antemortem* inspection in the country of origin.
- 4) Bovine meat should be from animals that have not been subjected to gas injection into fore cavity (nasal or mouth cavity) or upper veritable column puncture (might cause nervous tissues rupture) before slaughter.
- 5) Consignment should be free of eyes, brains, spinal cords or meat mechanically extracted from skull or vertebral column.
- 6) Meat should be from cattle not exceeding 30 months of age.

In addition, all animal origin meat shall be accompanied with a Halal certificate to indicate the slaughter process has observed Islamic traditions. This general requirement is to satisfy religious requirements of the consumers' beliefs.

A USDA FSIS certificate is necessary for meat products including poultry products to cover the requirement (veterinary and sanitary certificate).

### III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATION REQUIRED ON THE EXPORT CERTIFICATE(S).

All food consignments received at Jordan's border points for clearance shall be accompanied with relevant documents as follows:

Raw plant material food shall be accompanied with:

- A Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary certificate from the country of origin
- A vessel inspection certificate for the preparedness and ability to transport cereals.

Vegetable oils shall be accompanied with:

- A certificate of preparedness to haul edible oils;
- A certificate declaring the type of metal used in the tank's lining;
- A certificate declaring the type of paint used for lining; and,
- A certificate with a list of materials carried by the vessel for the last three trips prior to current one.

Meat products shall be accompanied with:

- SPS certificates that attest that the product came from healthy animals that have been subjected to all required veterinary inspections under sanitary conditions.
- The produced meat is fit for human consumption.
- Since Jordan classifies the United States as BSE controlled risk, and until this status changes, the OIE recommendation for import from such countries should be considered.

#### **IV. GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.**

The Ministry of Agriculture requires a prior approval as a condition to ensure that the animals and animal products meet local health standards issued by JISM. The importation of special flour and powdered milk for manufacturing purposes is subject to prior approval from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture. Importation of rice, sugar, and wheat derivatives has been liberalized. The private sector may import these items into Jordan if prevailing customs duties and taxes are paid, and the product meets local quality standards. Alcoholic beverages may be imported into Jordan, but high tariffs are applied (50-200 percent) as a revenue source for the government.

Usually when importing meats, fruits, fish and vegetables, a prior license of import should have been issued by the relevant authority. In this case Ministry of Agriculture issues an import license to the trader upon request and indicates the time validity of the license, which is usually three months unless otherwise mentioned.

For transit shipment to a third country the license validity is usually two months except for chilled meat it is valid for one month.

The original certificate does not need to accompany the product at the time of entry, instead a photocopy or fax copy would be considered temporarily enough, especially with perishables like meat and fruits consignments. The customs authority releases the consignment under bail, or any acceptable form of securities until the original certificate has been submitted,

The importer can import his shipment to Jordan on a multiple bases using the same import license either until the license expiration date or the quantity is fulfilled.

Jordan customs authority accepts U.S. state-issued export certificates, it also accepts suppliers' or manufacturers' export declarations as proof of compliance but retain the right to investigate it at any moment without the need to justify. Whenever there is a suspicion in any U.S. issued certificate, GOJ authorities pass it to the U.S. embassy in Amman to consult USG about the authenticity of such certificate. In the case there is a fraudulent certificate, the whole shipment will be rejected.



## V. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.

Jordan Customs developed and launched the Customs Integrated Tariff System (CITS) in Aug/2005 to assist importers. Web site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Importers can use this system to monitor commodity tariffs, import conditions and commodity trade agreements.

The CITS system allows an importer to review all regulations and requirements of the commodity trade; all CITS system information is in Arabic and English.

All imported foods should conform to the Jordanian standards issued by JISM. All agricultural products may be imported by the private sector, if the products meet local quality standards, which are set by JISM on the basis of the *Codex Alimentarius* (<http://www.codexalimentarius.net>, [www.jism.gov.jo](http://www.jism.gov.jo)). In 2003, JISM instituted a pre-shipment inspection program, which is entirely voluntary for food importers. Import licenses are not required for most imported goods. Some products require prior approval from either the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Agricultural products for which prior approval is required from the Ministry of Agriculture are live animals, fresh, chilled and frozen meat and frozen animal semen.

Any imported agricultural or food product may be inspected and tested to ensure that it is fit for human consumption. Virtually all prepared and mixed foods are tested at the border.

The JFDA has the authority to inspect food products at the retail and wholesale distribution levels. A representative may enter any place and collect samples for testing. If a product fails to meet technical requirements or is found unfit for human consumption, it is removed from distribution channels and destroyed.

Food additives are regulated by JISM and JFDA. In general, permissible additives and their concentrations are those approved by the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission. However, the technical standards for foods contain specific lists for food additive and their permissible levels of use. These standards should be consulted to make sure that additives are permitted.

Labeling requirements are set by the Institute of Standards and Metrology. Legal requirements for labeling are fairly standard although a statement of ingredients in order of preponderance is not required. All labels must either be in Arabic or have a stick-on label in Arabic. In general, the label should contain the name of the product, the manufacturer's name and address, net weight, fortifying matter (like added vitamins and minerals to powder milk), lot number and "use before" or "best before" date. Local labeling requirements do not include Recommended Daily Intake (RDIs). Nutritional labeling is mandatory in certain categories of food including infant formula, food for dietary use, etc. Web-site: [www.jism.gov.jo](http://www.jism.gov.jo)

**APPENDIX I. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS**

Jordan Food & Drug Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 4612663

Fax: (962-6) 4612663

Web-site: [www.jfda.jo](http://www.jfda.jo)

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Tel: (962-6) 560-7191/5663774

Fax: (962-6) 560-4691

Web-site: [www.mit.gov.jo](http://www.mit.gov.jo)

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Services Directorate

OR

Plant Protection Directorate

Tel: (962-6) 5686151

Fax: (962-6) 5686310

Web-site: [www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)

Jordan Institute of Standards and Metrology

Tel: (962-6) 5680139

Fax: (962-6) 5681099

Web-site: [www.jism.gov.jo](http://www.jism.gov.jo)

Jordan Customs Department

P.O.Box 90, Amman, Jordan

Tel: (962-6) 462-3186/8; 462-4394/6

Fax: (962-6) 464-7791

E-mail: [Customs@Customs.gov.jo](mailto:Customs@Customs.gov.jo)

Web-site: <http://www.customs.gov.jo>

Ministry of Environment

Tel: + (962-6) 5560113

Fax: + (962-6) 5560288

Web-site: <http://www.moenv.gov.jo/>

Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority

P.O.Box 2565, Aqaba 77110, Jordan

Tel: + (962-6) 3 203 5757/8

Fax: + (962-6) 3 203 0912

Web-site: <http://www.aqabazone.com/>

**APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS**

For further help, please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs, American Embassy, POBox 354, Amman, Jordan, Phone: (962-6) 5906056, Fax: (962-6) 5920146, E-Mail: [Mohamed.khraishy@usda.gov](mailto:Mohamed.khraishy@usda.gov)